

89  
Essayes and Characters of  
a Prison and Prisoners. N<sup>o</sup> 1297.

Written by G. M. of *Graves-Inne*, Gent.  
With some new Additions.

1080-6  
10

*Hee's a true Laylor keeps the Devil in ill.*



*Those that keepe me, I keepe; if can, will fill:*

Printed at London by I. O. for Matthew Walbancke, and are to  
be sold at his Shop at *Graves-Inne* Gate. 1638.

THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JANUARY 1, 1900



THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY



To the most worthy young  
Gentlemen (my noble Visitants)  
of the Honourable Society  
of Grayes-Inne.



Worthy Friends, (and noblest Society of  
Gentlemen) doe not thinke that with Pig-  
malion, I am enamoured with my owne  
Piece, in that once more I wash over the  
Picture that was drawne but the Terme  
going before: for neither the colours laid  
on then, nor these now, are worthy to be  
preferred to eyes so iudicious, as yours are; I come now not  
to re-sing, but to re-cant the errors both of my Pen and Iudg-  
ment, so rashly to thrust my selfe into a Printers presse, though  
against my will: Ad prælium cuasi ad prælium. I undertooke  
a warre when I adventured to speake in print, (not in print as  
Puritanes Ruffes are set) but to have the Criticall fingers of  
every mewing censure to fill p mee as I lye on a Stationers  
stall: for tenne thousand Bullets have been spitefully shot at  
me for that one poore paper Bullet which I shot up and downe  
Fleet-street. Carps have beene good cheap this Lent, for I  
have had more than I desired for nothing, some being sent  
from the table of Taylors, who having no great appetite (though  
insatiable Mawes of themselves) to other meats, did their best  
to whet their stomackes upon mee, but they shall sooner finde  
to be a choak-Pearre in going downe, than a Gudgeon, easily to

77  
The Epistle Dedicatory.

be devoured especiall by their seare throates. Such teeth may bite me. but shall not draw blood of mee. I make an Apo'ogy to none, but to you, (most worthy to be by me respected, what others thinke I care not, so you take not my weaknesse; signe you my pardon, and I weigh not who else condemnes me. I have now put my name to my booke, (without tergiversation or turne-coating the letters) not that I feared to dare so much before, but my love aiming onely to hit your favours. I know my meaning could not lye hidden to you, for your sakes especially (noble friends) who have bene loving Visitants to me in this enchanted Castle, where I lye bound with Sorce-rers Charmes, before did, and I doe now with whole Miriads of thanks, send these Papers full of my love in retribution of your singular expression bestowed upon mee. And so not doubting of a continuation of your good thoughts towards me, I commend my selfe, not onely to you, whose personall embracements have added heate to my affection, but to all the rest of my fellow Students incorporated into your most worthy Society.

Yours, in the highest  
degree of Friendship to  
bee commanded.

G. N.

To



77

To his most loving and ever Respective  
Kind Vncle, Mr. *Mathew Mainwaring* of  
*Namptwich in Cheshire.*

**S**INCE my comming into this Prison, what with the strangeness of the place, and strictnesse of my Liberty, I am so transported, that I could not follow that Study wherein I tooke great delight and chiefe pleasure: and to spend my time idley, would but adde more discontentments to my troubled brest, and being in this *Chaos* of discontentments, fantasies must arise, which will bring forth the fruits of an idle braine, for *è malis minimum*. It is farre better to give some accompt of time, though to little purpose, than none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Essayes, and a few Chara&ers of such things as by my owne experience I could say, *Probatum est*: not that thereby I should either please the Reader, or shew exquisitenesse of invention, or curious style; seeing what I write of, is but the Childe of sorrow, bred by discontentments, and nourisht up with misfortunes, to whose helpe melancholly *Satyrne* gave his Judgement, the Night-bird her invention, and the ominous *Raven* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the Inke of misery, as chiefe aiders in this Architect of sorrow.

This Childe is borne, and brought to the Font, all things ready, onely there wants a Patron. *Hoc difficilimum est*: For who will defend sorrow and misery? Who will give him entertainment? Who will countenance this Worke, the Author being miserable? Who will respect the matter, the Man being an abject? Who will cherish the Circumstance, when the substance is almost perished? Surely *Non in his diebus*, for Friendship is banished, Love extinguished, naturall affection gone to travell; Gold is dearer than a Friend, Treasure is nearer than a Kinsman, and Mammon better beloved than a Sonne. Yet in this famine of true friends I will venter upon you, (most loving Uncle) as a God-father to this my first borne, though in misery. I can have but a denyall, which if you doe, it must dye in oblivion. But why should I feare, since you have always beene my


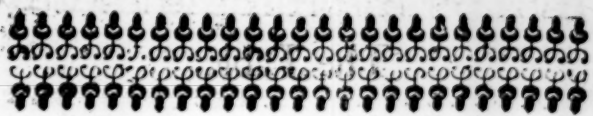
## The Epistle Dedicatory.

my Anchor when I have bene Ship-wracks, and many times saved my poore Barke when it was ready to split? Why then should I doubt of your friendly Patronage, which hath never failed me? Be bold then, and goe thy way, thou shalt be entertained, though not for any worth which is in thee, yet in respect thou doest but show a willing heart, and doest endeavour to expell ingratitude, a thing most odious not onely to man, but God; not to Christians, but Heathens; not to Heathens, but Beasts.

What then should I give to you for all your kindneses which you have continually bestowed upon me, which are to many, that if I should endeavour to recite, *Ante diem clauso componet vesper Olympe*: but to shew my willingnesse to my power, though I am not able to requite, (for *ultra posse non est esse*) doe offer up unto the Oracle of your love the sacrifice of a loving heart, hoping that what is amisse, you will impute it to the slendernesse of my judgement, and the dulnesse of my braine, which this place hath made worse, (and not to the least defect of good will) and that you would see none but your selfe see my imperfections, which are sufficiently divulged by mine owne actions, and would be unwilling to have a second Edition of them by my writing. This was the chiefest cause I tooke this in hand; another was, because that happily some friend of mine (*post mea funera*) by accident may find this paper, and read them, and by my example say, *Felix sum, quem pericula huius Authoris faciunt me cavum*, for *Qui ante non cavet, post dolebit*, and that they may be affraid to enter into Debt any farther than necessity urgeth; and if they be forced to borrow, to pay as soone as they can: (for Usury and Extortion bite deepe, and credit once crackt is not easily recovered, nor all Creditors of one minde; for some will in pitty forbear, and others will shew the greatest severity. So hoping you will accept *non donum sed animum*, I rest,

Your ever loving Nephew,

GEFFRAY MYNSHUL.



## To the Courteous Reader.



*Courteous Reader, onely to banish melancholy, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in respect of this place, I gathered a few Essayes and Characters, with an intent not to have them seene of any, but to him to whom they were sent, being one that I might truly ground a certainty of, who would excuse my imperfections, and iudge charitably of my slendernes of iudgment: this Coppy by accident came to some of my friends hands, who having perused it, wished mee to put it in print, which I altogether refused, because I would not presume of my owne iudgement, or dare to venture put my selfe to the censure of so many understanding Readers, into whose hands it is subiect to fall. These perswasions prevailed not, intreaties were laid aside, and I must either divulge them, or else lose their love: This was the first motive that with an unwilling willingnesse, caused mee to put my booke to censure: Another was in respect some obdurate Creditors may reade it, and by reading mollifie their strong hearts: The last reason, because it may be as a caveat to yong gallants, to terrifie them how they runne in debt, wherein they may know that imprisonment is of all miseries most lamentable.*

*So hoping that the iudicious will with favourable censure mitigate my many imperfections, and the other iudge favourably of my intencion, which if it take well, is better than I can expect if otherwise they doe not ininy mee in giving desert his reward.*

## The Table.

<b>E</b> SSAYES of a Prison.	Folio 1.
The Character of a Prison.	F. 2.
Of Prisoners.	F. 3.
Prisoners of another Nature.	F. 4.
The Character of a Prisoner.	F. 8.
Of Creditors.	F. 9.
The Character of a Creditor.	F. 14.
Of choise company in prison.	F. 16.
The character of companions in Prison.	F. 19.
Of Visitants in Prison.	F. 20.
The Character of Visitants.	F. 22.
Of entertainment in Prison.	F. 23.
Of keepers which goe abroad with prisoners.	F. 27.
The Character of Keepers.	F. 28.
Essayes and Characters of Iaylors and Keepers of Prisons.	F. 29.
Of mercilesse Iaylors.	F. 34.
Of the miserable life in Prison.	F. 38.
A looker up at Nights.	F. 41.
A noble understanding Prisoner.	F. 42.
Observations of a Prison.	F. 43.
Some new Additions.	F. 50.

ESSAYES



# ESSAYES OF A PRISON.

**T**O what end or purpose should I intreat the helpe of the Musés, for the aide of invention ; or *Cicero*, to adorne my phrase with eloquence ; or *Horaces* deepe judgement to write judiciously, or implore aide of *Martiall* ; to speake mystically ; or *Virgils* heroick stile, to please the hearers, since what I write is nothing but of sorrow ; the subject but discontentment, and the whole matter but an Index of many miseries: and therefore my phrase shall be altogether unpolished, being the servant of my more dull apprehension.

*Vade, sed incultus, qualem decet exulis esse,  
Infelix habitum temporis huius habe.*

My purpose is, with dim water-colours to line me out a heart, yea, such a heart, so discontented and oppressed, that I need not be curious in fitting every colour to his place, or to chuse the pleasantest chamber to draw it in, because in it I am to lay down the

2 *Essayes and Characters of a Prison.*

bounds of those tempestuous seas, in which tenne thousands are every day tossed, if not overwhelmed, which is so usuall here amongst us, that every one is Arts master in this workmanship, and every minute something or other is still added to this distressed Picture, whose ponderous waight is so great, that the frame is scarce able to beare the *Effgies*.

My travels hither to this infernall Iland hath been but a short voiage, and my abode here as yet but few Moneths, but it seemes longer to me than an East-Indian voyage, and I am sure farre more dangerous: for if from the Indies of sixty men twenty come home safe it is well; but in this, if eighty of an hundred be not cast over-board it is a wonder.

*Loci incho-  
datus.*

Being once arived, no starre of comfort here can be seene to sayle by, no haven of happinesse neare, no anchor of hope to cast out, Top-saile, Fore-saile, Sprit-saile, Mizen, Maine, Sheat, Bollings and Drablers are all torne by the windes, and the Barke it selfe so weather-beaten, that there is few can come neare to touch at the Cape of *Bona Speranza*.

Being once arived at, all are not onely staid, but the enchantments are so strong, that it transformeth all that come thither. First, the greatest courages are here wracked, the fairest revenues do here come aground; it maketh a wise man to lose his wits, a foole to know himselfe, it turnes a rich man into a begger, and leaves a poore man desperate, he whom neither Snowes nor Alpes can vanquish, but hath a heart as constant as *Hanibal*, him can the miseries of Prison overcome.

*The*

*The Character of a Prison.*

A Prison is a grave to bury men alive, and a place wherein a man for halfe a yeares experience may learne more Law, than he can at *Westminster* for an hundred pound.

It is a *Microcosmus*, a little world of woe, it is a map of misery, it is a place that will learne a young man more villany, if he be apt to take it, in one halfe year, than he can learn at twenty dicing houses, bowling-allies, brothel-houses, or Ordinaries; and an old man more policy, than if he had bin Pupill to *Machiavel*.

It is a place that hath more diseases predominant in it, than the Pest-house in the Plague time, and it stinkes more than the Lord Majors dogge-house, or Paris garden in August.

It is a little common-wealth, although little wealth be common there; it is a desert where desert lyes hood-winckt; it is a famous City wherein are all Trades, for here lyes the Alchymist that can rather make *ex auro non auro*, than *ex non auro auro*.

It is as intricate a place as *Rosamonds* Labyrinth, and is so full of blinde Meanders, and crooked turnings, that it is impossible to find the way out, except he be directed by a silver Clue, and can never overcome the *Minotaur*, without a golden ball to worke his owne safety.

It is as Innes of Court, for herein Lawyers inhabit, that have crochers to free other men, yer al their quirks & quiddities cannot infranchise themselves.

4 *Essayes and Characters of a Prison.*

It is the Doctors-Commons, where skilfull Physicians frequent, who like *Æsculapius* can cure other mens diseases, yet cannot quintessence out of al their Vegetals and Minerals, a Balsamum or Elyxir to make a soveraigne plaister to heale the surfeit the Mace hath given them.

It is the Chyrurgions Hall, where many rare Artists live, that can such other mens wounds, yet cannot heale the wound the Serjeant hath given them.

It is your Bankrupts banquetting house, where hee sits feasting with the sweet meates borrowed from other mens tables, having a voluntary disposition never to repay them againe.

It is your Prodigals *Ultimum refugium*, wherein he may see himselfe, as in a glasse, what his excesses hath brought him to; and lest he should surfet, comes hither to physick himselfe with moderate dyet, and lest that his bed of Downe should breede too many diseases, comes hither to change his bed, where he is scarce able to lye downe.

It is a Purgatory which doth afflict a man with more miseries than ever he reaped pleasures.

It is a pilgrimage to extenuate sinnes, and absolve offences: for here be Seminaries and Masse Priests, which doe take downe the pride of their flesh more, than a voyage to the Holy Land, or a haire shirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth banish a man from all contentments, wherein his actions doe so terrifie him, that it makes a man grow desperate.

To conclude, what is it not? In a word, it is the  
very



very Idea of all misery and torments, it converts joy into sorrow, riches into poverty, and ease into discontentments.

*Of Prisoners.*

I Could wish that every one that comes to prison, should not be dismayed, but carry it out bravely, and with resolution, and to consider that no misery in this world is endlesse. After stormes calmes will arise, and though sorrow be over night, yet joy will come in the morning; and to say as *Cesar* did to the Pilot that carried him when he was afraid, quoth he, *Thou carriest Cesar*: So every generous minde ought to be arm'd with resolution to meet all storms of adversity, and to consider that man was borne to misery, and therefore naturall unto him.

*Omis homo miser.*

But thou wilt peradventure say, the name of a prisoner is loathsome to thee. Is it because thou art cooped under locke and key? Is it because thou feelest wants? Is it because thou art barred of freedom? Is it because thy friends looke strangely on thee or forsake thee? Is it because thou art disgraced & holden in scorn? Is it because thou lodgest hardly, and peradventure with an ill bedfellow? Yet let not all these dismay thee, for hadst thou the whole Countrey to walke in, yet thy soule is still imprisoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want discourage thee, for thy Redeemer suffered hunger and cold to fulfill thy wants. Let not want of freedom trouble thee, thy Saviour was fettered & mangled to enfranchise thee.

Let

6 *Essayes and Characters of Prisoners.*

Let not the coy lookes of thy friends dismay thee, thy Lord was scorned of all men to bring thee into favour. Let not disgraces molest thee, the King of Kings was most disgraced to honour thee. Let not thy lodging, or forced chamber-fellows afflict thee, the Pilor of thy safety was lodged in a Manger, and made a companion for theeves. But looke into thy owne boosome, and learne but a short rule, yet very difficult: viz. (*nolce teipsum*) and thou shalt find that it is not imprisonment that afflicts thee, but the evil which is in thy selfe, makes thee so distastfull, for hadst thou all things at will, yet still wouldst thou wish for more. The greatest Monarch lives not without some discontentment; and comfort thy selfe that one day thou shalt be infranchised, and goe to that place and Mansion house which is prepared for thee, where all scores shall be paid, all cares banished, and all teares wiped away.

*Nolce teipsum.*

*Nemo vivit contentus.*

Varlets and Catchpoles arrest thee, fret not at it, if law have power to whet an axe, she must pick out a hangman to strike the mace, this doth but only put thee in remembrance of that arrest which shall summon thee to appear at the imperial court of heaven.

Thy actions are many and great which are against thee, yea some of you come to a tormenting execution; grieve not at this, it doth but teach thee that thy accompts must be brought against thee, to draw thee to a reckoning, to make thee know that thou owest a reckoning to heaven as well as to man, and Justice will execute his power, not to drive thee to despaire, but to amendment.

*Redde ratio-  
nem.*

Further

Further, I perswade my selfe there are many Prisoners whose resolutions are so noble, that before they would yeeld to the threats of an insulting creditor, they would cheerefully thrust the ir necks into the yoke of adversity, if no more veines herein were cut but their owne; but here is none so poore, which dyes in Prison, but the last gaspe doth cracke the heart-strings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends, or allies, therefore art thou bound to take pity of thy selfe, and to hang out the flag of truce to thy bloody minded creditor, and seeke for ransome to pay all, so that thou maist escape with life, though it be upon some ignoble termes, and much losse to thee, if none of these respects, yet for thy Countries sake, to whom thou art a Traitor if thou give thy selfe to thine enemies hand, when upon parley thy peace may be made; come forth of prison, and die not there, that thou maist honour thy King, and do service to thy Countrey, and pay thy debts so farre as thou art able, because the greatest debt that ever thou didst owe was paid for thee.

*Parites & Libertant chari.**Non nobis, sed Patrie.**Prisoners of another nature.*

SOME there be, which have gotten other mens goods, and so lye here to defraud them, these of all men deserve no pittie or compassion, which tye their owne hands, and make themselves gally-slaves, onely to weare golden fetters: how canst thou say thy prayers, and expect a blessing should be powred on thee, that so willingly errest from the type of a just man,

*Bankrupts.*

*Fac alij fieri  
quod velis ipse  
tibi.*

man, which is, (*Suum quique attribuere.*) I will not speake much of thee, because it must be all gall: One-ly this in hope to amend thee, the gallows on which the poore Theefe hangeth is most fit for thee: he robbeth one man, thou whole families: he is a Felon to man onely, thou art a Felon to God and man: if he kill he doth it suddainly, and but one, when thou with a lingering death destroyest father, mother, children, and peradventure many Orphans left to their charge. But looke to it, that although thou compound for two shillings or three shillings in the pound, the overplus which thou so ill hast got, will bring thy soule into such debt, that the remainder will not pay the interest to save the forfeiture of thy soule to the Divell, which will damne thee and thy angels with him and his angels; and thy issue, or allies which shall enjoy them shall never prosper with them.

*Divitie facit  
bomines poten-  
tiores non me-  
tiores.*

*Bona male par-  
ta male dis-  
buntur.*

### *The Character of a Prisoner.*

A Prisoner is an impatient Patient, lingering under the rough hands of a cruell Philisitin; his creditor having cast his water, knowes his disease, and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleasure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freed me running by his doore, yet cannot enjoy the least benefit thereof, his greatest griefe is, that his credit was so good, and now no better: his land is drawne within the compasse of a sheepes skinne, and his owne hand the fortification that barres him of enterance: hee is fortunes tossing bal, an object that would make mirth melancholy:

melancholy: to his friends an abject, and a subject of nine dayes wonder in every Barbers shop, and a mouthfull of pittie (that he had no better fortune) to Midwives, and talkative Gossips; and all the content that this transitory life can give him, seemes but to flout him, in respect the restraint of liberty barres the true use. To his familiars he is like a plague, whom they dare scarce come nigh for feare of infection, he is a monument ruined by those which raised him, he spends the day with a *heimihi, ve miserum*, and the night with *Nallis est medicabilis herbis*.

Of Creditors.

A Creditor hath two paire of hands; one of flesh and blood, and that Nature gave him; another of Iron, and that the Law gives him: but the one is more predominant than the other, for mercy guides the one, and mammon the other. But if he once considers what hee goeth about to doe, and that it is the Image of God whom he laboureth to deface and oppresse with miseries and calamities: then the softnesse of the one doth so operate that it meets with the hardnesse of the other, which never comes to passe, but when grace and mercy kisse Law and Justice; but such dayes are seldome set downe in our Calenders, but I perswade my selfe that for a strange Meridian is that Almanacke calculated, in which they are found.

*Deus fecit hominem secundum imaginem suam.*

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too

much to learne it here ) have knowne of my owne knowledge. a hundred Creditors which have laid their debtors in Irons, as relentlesse as themselves, and c<sup>t</sup> those hundred, if I should adde a hundred more, I thinke I should nominate but one onely, and onely one of a mercifull breast, who did not onely grieve to see his debtor oppressed with misery, but also laid money out of his purse to free him, he shot a second arrow to finde the first, and suppose he shot both away, doe you thinke his quiver was the emptier? no, he scattered a handfull of corne, and reaped a bushell, he received treble interest, he gained by this new security, and such as would not faile him at the day; God became his debtor, and paid him more than his accompt came to.

*Ironia.*

Thou that art a Creditor wilt not beleeve this : doe not. But in stead of this mans weeping, make thy debtor melt into teares, and in stead of his lamentation, rejoyce he is in thy hands to use him cruelly, and flatter thy selfe in saying, thou hast no reason to lose so much by him, but I will have his body, or in perswading thy selfe, that his friends wil not let him lye for such a debt, and that thou wilt not forgive him, but *volens volens* wilt be satisfied, or else he shall starve and rot: O thou wicked man, thou never dost consider what teares thy Saviour shed to free thee, and when thou wast given up to the prison of hell, by the hands of thy cruell Creditor the Diuell to be cruelly tormmented, yet Christ paid all thy scores with his most precious blood, and how canst thy lye downe on thy pillow, to pray to God to forgive

*Homo homini  
supra.*

107

forgive thee a million of debts, nay, they runne into *infinitum*, which will not forgive thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not redeem thee, thy Saviour freed thee; how canst thou do these things with a safe conscience? Dost thou not sleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnation, thy prayers turne into cursings, and thou dost but mocke him that thou prayest to.

Consider what a great score thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou shalt not escape, if thou use such cruelty, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing: thou that art a cruell murderer, whom the revenge and wrongs of a wife, children, parents, and orphans, will like the blood of *Abel* call to heaven for vengeance on thee and thy posterity: doe but consider of this, and then thou wilt be afraid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romanes, who rather builded a Temple for the reliefe of those which were falne into decay and poverty, than finde a prison to starve them in; and follow *Titus Vespasian*, who having omitted but one day to doe iustice, caused that day to be put forth of the Calender. So that day when thou shalt have but a thought of tormenting thy poore brother, doe but looke into thy owne Conscience, and it will make thee repent that ever thou hast lived such a day wherein thou hast playd the Tyrant in thy heart. The rocks have yeelded reliefe to men opprest, but thou more harder than they, art the cause of their misery. Be thou as great a Tyrant over thy poore Debtor as *Nero* was to Rome, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane



as *Lycaon*, and in the end thou dost with these get a staffe to break thy owne head, and lay a snare which thou thy selfe shalt fall into, for though thy owne person escape, yet thy posterity shall be sure to feelee the punishment.

Thou that vauntest, and wilt make dice of thy debtors bones: be these the words of a man? No, of a monster; no, but a Divell; nay worse than a Divell, a thing not worthy name: for these words thou art as infamous, as the Jewes hatefull, for casting of dice for our Lords garment; that garment was but a sencelesse thing, but thou casts dice for a peece of thy Redeemers body.

Thou takest with one clap of a Varlets hand, from the Courtier his honor, from the Lawyer his tongue, from the Merchant the Seas, from the Citizen his credit, from the Scholler his preferment, from the Husbandman the earth it selfe, and from all men (as much as thou maist) the brightnesse and warmth of the Sunne in heaven. In a word, if nothing will make thy stony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debtor, art worse than the hang-man; hee before he strikes begs pardon, thou takest a pride to condemne where thou maist save.

But it may be thy estate is sicke, thy credit much engaged, and to save thy selfe thou art forced to doe this.

In so doing thou dost well: if another weare thy coat, and thou goest cold, thou maist pluck it from his shoulders. If thou art hungry, and another keeps thy meate, thou maist take it off his Table: if he be  
able



able to cure thy wound, which for his sake thou hast made, thou hast reason to seeke thy remedy; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to cover him with, wilt thou trample upon his naked body? If with the Jew of Malta, in stead of coyne, thou requirest a pound of flesh next to thy debtors heart, wilt thou cut him in peeccs? If thy debtor offer thee his bed helyes in, his chamber hee sleepest in, his dish he drinkest in, nay, all that he hath, so that he leaues himselfe, wife, and children, as naked as they came into the World, wilt thou for all this suffer him to lye in prison? If thou be mercifull to thy debter that cannot pay thee, alas, what is it? No more than if thou shouldst lift up the head of a sicke man upon his pillow to ease him, he may recover and doe as much for thee. In prison poverty is made beggery, and so thereby thou dost not onely undoe thy debter, but lose all: therefore be mercifull and pittifull, and thou shalt not lose thy reward.

*Lycurgus* being askt why he made no Law for par-Parricides, he answered, because he thought there were none so unnaturall: so if I should have studied al the dayes of my life, and that my yeares should be doubled, I should never have imagined either to have invented, or to have beene an eye-witnesse of such unnaturalnesse as is here exemplary, as the Sonne who being bound for his father, to free himselfe, hath laid his Father up in close Prison, and here hath detayned him seaven yeares, never yeelding to any composition, but his poore Father liues at his mercilesse mercy:

mercy : and againe, the father suffers his sonne to be imprisoned for his owne debt at his owne suite; surely a thing so abhord, that I tremble to write it, and none can read it without blushing.

What will this world come to, when the mammon of this world shall set father against sonne, sonne against father, and make them more mercilesse than Tygers, and more unnaturall than beasts? for a beast forsakes not his own, but man respecteth gold before his friend, and the father coyne before the sonne of his body, flesh of his flesh. And the sonne, the God of this world, before his father which gave him life and being, whom he ought to cherish, and undergoe all troubles to ease him. But looke to it, both fathers and children, least in a moment the just iudgement of God fall upon you, and damne you and your gold together, loving it better than those whom you ought to cherish, and the one to be but a thing of the basest esteeme, in respect of the other. I could exemplifie it with histories, as well forraine as domestike, but that it is not my purpose, for *Ex paucis plurima concipit ingenium.*

*Ex paucis dictis  
plurima intendere  
potes.*

### *The Character of a Creditor.*

A Creditor is a man whose estate is wrapped up in Sheep-skinnes, his rising growes by his debtors fall, his credit relies upon his debtors performance, and the death of a young gallants father, is more pleasing to him, than fasting dayes to an Usurer, or death to a Broker; he growes rich onely by putting forth

forth commodities, which immediatly converts to discommodities ; he will not put money for tenne in the hundred , for Usury is hatefull to him, but he loves Extortion, and makes that his *summum bonum*, for he will Merchandise with you, whereby hee will gaine sixty in a hundred ; he is your Cities honest man, which is, to speak the truth, more than a knave, for a knave that is crafty needs no Broker, but he cannot live without one. He is a man composed of all love, and protesting kindnesse to pleasure the occasions of his gallant Debtor, with his much affirmation of his respect, how willing hee is to doe his worship a pleasure, whereby the chiefe aime of his pleasure, is to have a footing upon some capitall mesuage, or else to be fingring some petty Lordship, or comely Mannor, who having no sooner glutted himselfe with the rich banquet of his Debtors deere cost, but immediately to Physick himselfe, hee is at the charge of a faire hackney Coach, with three most absolute jades to draw him, ( whither hee most willingly drawne ) with his curious wife, and two or three of his owne conditioned neighbours, to see this goodly purchase, who prepare themselves some fortnight before hand, and prune themselves up in their Peacocks feathers, like the puppets in a Lord Majors pageant, and for this great act he is admired at amongst his neighbours, as the Owle in the day time amongst other birds, and esteemed of with as much respect as the Captaine *Pigmi* was, which was commander in that bloody warres against the terrible blacke Crowes.

*Similis simili gaudet.*

16 *Essayes and Characters of Companions.*

A Creditor may further be said to be either, *Homo, monstrum, or Daemon*. A man, when he casts his debtor into prison with a determination to seeke his owne, not to ruine him, and if he be not able to pay all, to take what he can spare, and give him day for the rest, and so release him: this man is (*homo homini Deus*) that as he doth punish, so he doth preserve.

A monster, when he hath not onely extended his substance, but casts him in prison, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of release, till he have paid him the uttermost farthing.

A diuel, when he hath ruined him, doth rejoyce to see him fall, and in stead of coyne will have his cakasse: But to finde a Creditor both *Homo & Angelus*, that will release his prisoner when hee is not able to pay him, and that will consider, that *ultra posse non est esse*. Such a one is, *rara avis interris, &c.*

*Of choyce of company in Prison.*

**W**ouldst thou learne to dispute well? be an excellent Sophister. Wouldst thou dispute of forraigne affaires, and be an excellent Linguist? I counsell thee to travell. Wouldst thou be of a pleasing and affectionat behaviour? frequent the Court. Wouldst thou dive into the secret villanies of man? lye in prison.

*Via periculosa.* Take heed when thou entrest into this wildernesse of wilde beasts, what path thou takest, some guide is necessary, or else unawares thou wilt with the Roman Emperours Steward fall into a pit, where cruell devou-

devouring beasts are intrapped, which will ruine thee.

Society is the string at which the life of man hangeth, without which is no musicke, two in this maske is but a union; *Adam* had his *Eve*, and every sonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loves.

No Chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it steddly, a third is superfluous, foure too cumbersome: thou must choose one, and but one, who walks alone is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into prison, as all Rivers runne into the sea, therefore it is good to be familiar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any, *eandem cantilenam cano*, but with one make tryall what the vessell will hold, before thou powre thy selfe into him, and be wary what thou saiest or doest, for thou shalt have the eyes of envy, not of reproofe, which will looke upon thee, to malice thee if thou dost well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humours, and to dance after their owne pipe, thou shalt be more emulated than the boy was of the two Ladies, when he preferred *Venus* before in giving her the golden ball; and if by accident thou dost any thing amisse, as, *humanum est errare*, thou shalt be more vilified, and with inveterate malice more prosecuted to disgrace thee, than the *Parisiens* did the *Hugonites*.

Be wary therefore of thy company, for to bee a bowle for every alley, and run into every company, proves thy minde to have no bias.

Thy comming into prison, is like a Traveller com-

ming into strange Countries, who takes up severall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwel of thy selfe, be not giddy, but composed; for he that is every where, is no where; therefore bee wary whom thou selestest; for here be of all sorts, for thou shalt as well find a flattering *Gnatho*, as a dissembling *Sinon*; and if thou have store of Crownes, then shalt thou be sure to be humoured, and be beloved with outward respects, and then they will counsell and advise thee, with protestations of their love; but looke to such, whose counsell to heare and not imbrace will not hurt, but may much improve thee; but if once taken it will operate as the apple which *Valentine* Dutcheffe of Orleans cast to the yong Princes, which once tasted, will so poyson thee with corruption, that thou art uncurable.

Further, here bee vaine glorious and talkative-headed fooles, such will more trouble thee than any action of debt which is laid on thee: here be common drunkards which lye heavier on thee than an execution.

But if thou suffer a man to lye long in thy bosome, albeit his conditions be full of flawes, yet labour to peece and seame up his vices, rather than to cast him off, lest that it call thine owne judgement in question.

*Humani um est errare.* All men have imperfections, and being in prison we must not looke to have them like stars; this place is no *Orbe* for such constellations.

Let not thy companion be a miserable base-minded fellow, for then niggardlinesse will hold her fingers on thy purse-strings: let him not be a prodigall, for then he will draw thee to riot; if adulterer, to lust; if a swearer to damned oathes; if a pot-companion, to drunkenness: acquaint thy selfe therefore not with the most, but best, not the best in cloaths or money, but in vertue: if there be none such in Prison, then keepe company with thy selfe; in thy Chamber keepe company with *Plutarch* and *Seneca*, *Perkins* and *Greenham*, he one will teach thee to live well, the other to dye well.

*Divitie faci-  
unt bonos  
potiores  
non meliores.*

*Gum bonis bo-  
nus.*

*The Character of Companions in Prison.*

*Quot homines, tot sententiae.*

ALL Companies are not alike, neither is there an union in their dispositions. I will therefore touch but three kinds of persons which thou shalt be sure to find in Prison.

- 1 *A Parasite.*
- 2 *A Iohn indifferent.*
- 3 *A true bearded Titus.*

The first loveth thee better for thy meanes than merit, thy substance than thy selfe, who will rip open thy bosome to thy enemy, and when thy money begins to sinke will flye from thee, and will be the first that wil disgrace thee. He is like a whore, who wil no longer faune than thou wilt feed him. He is a trencher rascall, which will more hate thee when thou leavest to relieve him, than ever he did seeme to love thee.

The second is one that will flatter thee, and will neither absolutely love thee, nor hate thee, but when present will be with thee, when absent against thee; he is *bic & ubique*, here and every where, and in very truth he is no where.

The last of these thou maist call the masculine sweet-heart, which may be resembled to truth, whose bosome is alwaies bare, and hath a breast of Chrystall, that thou maist looke through his body to his heart; he is one that will love thee in adversity, hee will respect thee in the kitchen as well as in the parlour, he will reverence thee in the Hole as well as in the Masters side, he will looke on thee in ragges as well as in robes, and wil acknowledge thee in fetters as well as in a feather-bed: come stormes, come calmes, come tempests, come Sun-shine, come what can come, he will be thine, and sticke to thee.

*Verm amicus  
optimus ihe-  
sanus.*

### *Of Visitants in Prison.*

*Nullus ad amissas ibit amicus opes.*

FROM a ruinous house every man flyes: they that are abroad aske every day how thou dost, when in prison they protest they are sorry for thy misfortunes, but never come to thee: such are like idle passengers pressing about a Barbers shop when a man is carried in wounded, who will peepe in, and climbe about the windows, but dare not enter into the shop, for feare they should fall into a swoond to see him drest. A prisoner is as much beholding to such leap-frogge acquaintance, as a man shaken with an Ague



to every gossiping women hee meetes, who will teach him an hundred medicines, and not one worth taking.

But if thy ability be such that thou workest thy liberty, then thou shalt have as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimanus* had, much wine with little love bestowed upon thee, with oaths infinite; that they were comming forty times to see thee, but this or that occasion hindred them, when indeed they were afraid thou thou'dst have had occasion to use them: and they had purposed to have come this day, but they are happy that thy so much desired liberty hath prevented them: to such give no credit, onely salute them with a *Salve*, and a *vale*.

Others will come to thee with weeping and sighing to cheare thee up; such are like Robin red-breasts that bring strawes in their charitable bills to cover the dead.

Others will promise to lend thee money, but try them before thou have occasion to use them, which if they deny thee when thou art at liberty, be then unto them as a shadow. But true friends in a prison are like strawberries in a barren countrey, that one can hardly get a handfull of them in a whole yeare; nay, they are like your Roses here in Christmas, a thousand too one if in an age one be found: so in prison it is a great ods, if of a thousand kinsmen, allies, and acquaintance I finde but one true friend.

*Donec eris felix multos numerabis amicos,*

*Tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris.*

But in this great dearth of friends wherein we live,

live, under what fortunate Planet may I judge my selfe to be borne, and that the constellations of the starres have much favoured me, that amongst all my flesh and blood I have found one true *Damon*, or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongst all my acquaintance have found some faithfull, and more constant in their love and respect to me in this place, than when I was at liberty they did make shew of: Such Maists, that so save me in such wracks, I must ever love; with such Dolphins in all my dangers let me ever meet.

*The Character of Visitants.*

**V**isitants are men for the most part composed all of protesting promises, and little or no performance; they are like your Almanacks, which when they prognosticate faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it prove not contrary: they are like the German clocks which seldome goe right, their tongues run faster than the clocke on Shrove-tuesday; the pissing Conduit in Cheap-side, or an Irish mans paire of heeles when he runnes on a wager. They will tyre thy cares more in an houre with their loud protestations, than a *S. holler*, Citizen, or Tailor will a hackny horse in nalse a dayes riding, but in performance will be as slow as as a snail in her pace, and when thy messenger comes to them for money, then they will be sure to have the Strangulion, or Cholicke that they cannot speake, and looke as rustily on thy messenger, as a Lawyer will on his Clyent which sueth under *forma pauperis*, your letters as acceptable

ceptable as water into a shippe, the Kings privy seale to an Usurer, a Subpoena to a Country Gentleman, or a Catch pole amongst the friendly society of Gallants.

They are like the rings and chaines bought at St. Martins, that weare faire for a little time, but shortly after will prove Alchimy, or rather pure Copper.

Lastly, they are like the apples which grow on the Bankes of *Gomorrah*, they have crimson and beautiful rindes, but when they come to gather them they crumble all to dust.

*Of entertainment in Prison.*

AS soone as thou comdest before the gate of the Prison, doe but thinke thou art entring into Hell, and it will extenuate somewhat of thy misery, for thou shalt be sure not only to find hell, but fiends and ugly monsters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee; for at the gate there stands *Cerberus*, a man in shew, but a dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne upon thee, bidding thee welcome, in respect of the golden crust which he must have cast him, then he opens the doore with all gentlenes, shewing thee the way to misery is very faire, and being once in, he shuts it with such fury, that it makes the foundation shake, and the doore and windows so barricadoed, that a man so loseth himselfe with admiration, that he can hardly finde the way out, and be a sound man. Now for the most part your Porter is either some broken Cittizen, who

E

hath

24 *Essayes and Characters of Entertainers.*

hath plaid Iack of all trades, some Pander, Broker, or Hangman, that hath plaid the knave with all men, and for the more certainty his Embleme is a red Beard, to which Sacke hath made his Nose cousin German.

No sooner shall a man passe this fury, but hee is conducted to little ease his chamber, where hee no sooner hath entred, but (*hard usage*) his chamberlaine salutes him, and protests he hath lodged thee with as honest a man as himselfe, when as in truth a paire of sheres cannot part the knave betwixt them, and protesteth thou shalt have a cleane paire of sheetes, and of the best, who having no sooner fingered thy coyne, but sends thee a paire of sheetes fitter for a horse than a man, who having playd the Jade so with thee, then leaves thee. He no sooner departs, but thred-bear and monileffe thy chamber-fellowes, come upon thee for a Garnish, which if thou deny them, or hast no money, then *Exit* cloake from thy shoulders, and enter two dozen of pots, and one dosen of pipes, this is the pillow which shall be given thee to sleepe on the first night: now thou must be saluted in the morning, or else peradventure thou wilt thinke thy selfe nor welcome.

In the morning at thy uprising, (*Pot-beerbe*) the Gardiner appeares in his likeness, and *th*e will have *adgnentum anrcum*; for the narrow path thou hast to walke in.

Then to whet on thy stomack to dinner comes (*cut-throat*) the Steward for his crowne, who professeth much kindnesse he will shew thee; for thou hast

halt bound him with thy courtesie to coulsen thee not onely in thy meate but money.

Next after this comes (Mistresse *Mutton-chops*,) the head Cooke, who protesteth thou shalt command her, who having no sooner greased her fingers with thy silver, but ever after she will have a hand in thy dish, doe what thou canst to prevent it; so on all sides the blood of thy purse must be powred out to maintaine such mercilesse blood-hounds; and continuall purse-leaches.

These furies, as they have divers shapes, so have they severall kinds of temptation, for after thou hast beene some fortnight in prison, they will come to thee to cheere thee, lest thou shouldst adde melancholy to discontentment, and will tell thee they wish thee well, and thou shalt command them, and in their opinion the sight of the street will much content thee, and they will attend thee to the Taverne within the rule, where thou must quench their thirst with Sacke, and what is got of thee is well got being obtained by rule; for he that lives by rule, cannot erre.

Suppose thou either perceivest these things by others, or by thy owne experience, and so refuse this profered courtesie of theirs, purchased for their pleasures at thy owne cost: then if at any time upon just occasion thou desirest it, thou must give them a cup of *aunrum potabile*, or else expect not the least favour or smallest courtesie, for no penny, no Pater-noster, no gold, do friendship.

If thou continually be offered injuries, beare them

patiently, or else thou shalt be layd in Irons for satisfaction.

If they perceiue thou art like to continue, and hast good meanes, thou shalt want no content that prison can yeeld, but every dram of content will cost thee a pound of silver.

When they heare thou art upon discharge, then will they be very sorry, and make all the best meanes that possible they can to detaine thee; but if there be no remedy, but thou must needs depart, then what with their three halfe pence a pound for Action money, and three in the pound for Execution, they will make such a large bill, which will be more unconscionable than a Taylors, for he will abate of the *Summatotalis*, but in this here is nothing to bee abated, all their speech is *legem pone*; or else with their ill custome they will detaine thee, for thy denyall is an execution without tryall by law, for notwithstanding that amongst just men, *malus usus abolendus est*, here *conseruandus & preseruandus*, and so the entrance into prison, the continuance in prison, and the discharge out of prison, will bee nothing but racking the heart-strings of poore prisoners, and exhausting the substance of the distressed, whatsoever their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *Summa iniuria est summum ius*.

*Of Keepers which goe abroad with Prisoners.*

**H**ALT thou a desire to goe abroad, thy *Argos* which attends thee, will be more chargeable, <sup>4. Shillings per diem cū Cerere & Baccho.</sup> than the Lord Majors gally foyst on *Simon* and *Judas* day, or a Citizens wife to her husband when strawberries and Cherries are first cryed in the streetes, and will consume thee, if thou forbear not; thou maist better cheape ride on thy foot-cloth, than go abroad with thy Keeper.

If thou walkest abroad with thy Keeper use him friendly, but not respectively; so manage him, that he shall rather thinke himselfe beholding to thee, than thou to him; for howsoever he faunes upon thee with complements, standing bare with officious attendance; yet know, he serves in his place but as the dog the Butcher; he is to thee as a cur to a drove of beasts, if thou goest on quietly (be it to thy slaughter among griping Citizens, and cruell Creditors to worke thy owne freedome) he waits gently, and brings thee to the doore, but if thou once offer to stray hee worries thee.

Remember his eye shootes at two whites, thy person and thy purse, the one is to guard thee, the other to feed him; thou art compelled to protect thy Carkase under his shelter, as a sheep in a terrible storme under a brier, and be sure thy standing there is to have some of thy wooll torne off.

*The Character of Keepers.*

YOur Keepers most commonly are insinuating knaves, and mercenary rascalls, wearing their Masters livery, but their owne badge, which is slave: in full proportion they look like the picture of envy, with their hands continually diving into poore prisoners pockets, with their heads uncovered, still proffering courtesies, when their harts make answer what kindnesse they doe is (*non tibi sed pecunia*) they most commonly feede well to their masters credit, but the tablers charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knave which I have given them, as the old proverbe is, touch a gald horse and he will kicke. I will maintaine what I say out of their owne authors, a bird of their own nest, yet not altogether so ill, who said to me that he was weary of his slavish life, in respect he must be knave in his place; who said, if he were true to his master, he must be knave to prisoners, if true to prisoners, knave to his master. So be he honest in his vocation, or dishonest, he must bee still knave; for *mala mens, malus animus*.

There are abundance of these snakes which lye lurking in this place, whose chiefeest felicity is to talke off so many new prisoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of release, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keep not such a bawling as these cures every morning in the Terme, to goe abroad with poore prisoners by rule, onely to prey and seiz upon their coyne, and they will not abate



125

one penny of their extortion, though the poore prisoner fast a week with bread and water. And they rejoyce more for a *habeas corpus* in the vacation, than the husbandman for a plentiful harvest, or the Merchant for the safe landing of his Ship.

For money they will doe any thing, be it never so ill; so that they may purchase coyne, holding it a *maxime*, that silver is well gotten, if by any meanes obtained; and to use cruelty to Prisoners is policy and wisdom; because now is the time or never, for being once infranchised, they will be as wary to come in againe, as the bird which hath escaped the Foulers net.

*Essays and Characters of Taylors and keepers of*  
*Prisons.*

THESE are *diversa*, but not *contraria*, they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ, (*nomine tantum*) the Keeper is the root, body, and bulke of the tree, the Jailors are but branches, some slip off by losse of a Prisoner, by being given to drunkennes or whoring, (adjuncts inseperable to them) or by any other debauchednesse, at the pleasure of their commander.

The master of a prison is the *primum mobile*, in that everlasting motion, (a Jayle) and those key-turners and street-walkers, are the petty and necessary slavish wheelles, which runne like horses in Mills continually; by day with their feete, quicke eyes, and observing faces, by night with their feates, that

that the doore should flye open, and prisoners escape.

Many men, (borne well, of gentle blood, and extraordinary education) forsake the calmes of their owne happy fortunes, to arive on these quick-sanded shoares, and either by strength of purse, or free gift of great persons, have such places of command conferred upon them, ( I speake here of the better sort, which are the Masters) yet I know not whether the perverse unrulinesse of prisoners, with whom they are to wrastle, or whether the fate of such star-croft houses, or what other malevolent aspect stickes upon them, I know not I say, whether one of these single, or al of them together, alter soft & noble inclinations into cruell and crooked ones ; neither is my complaint or condemnation of them generall, for I know some of this File, may, and doe march in the rankes of men both worthy, and full of comiseration towards those poore people under their charge.

But for the second sort, which properly are Jaylors indeed, they are commonly eyther base tradesmen that have broken, and by little money pared off from other mens goods, buy such offices ; else are they lazy Serving-men, who being weary of carrying the Cloak-bagge, thinke it a brave life to come and command as good, and sometimes better men than their Masters, within the stinking precincts of a prison : or take the best choyce you can, they are but out-worne soldiers; but indeed for the most part the very off-scum of the rascall multitude, as Cabbage-carriers, Decoyes, Bum-bayliffes, disgraced Purse-vants,

vants, Botchers, Chandlers, and a rabble of such stinkardly companions, with whom no man of any reasonable fashion, but would scorne to converse; but in these infortunate caves of misery, where prisoners are tyed up like dogges, and these are the Beare-wards, that hold no life sweeter, than to insult over their betters.

These are *Niobes*, children turned into stones; these are double tongu'd monsters, who sawne upon prisoners with flattering speeches, and behind their backs cut their throats to their master.

Nay, these turne-coats take off the very top of their masters gentle disposition; and when they heare him promise to a Gentleman any favour of going abroad, or speaking to a Creditor in his behalfe, one of these Furies (bearing some secret spight) drawes blood of the prisoner, by poisoning the masters good intention, so that hee crossing over the water, or walking scarce to the Crosse in Cheape from the Compter, or from the Fleet so farre as to one of the Cooks Shops in the Lane, there drownes the vow of any promise.

Now such opinion puts he in these flattering Spaniels, and insinuating pesants, that the basest report and palpablest lye of them shall be sooner credited than any oath or contestation of the worthiest Gentleman, making confrontation against them.

*Porters* in prisons have in these close sights terrible reeth, and are good Blood-hounds, or rather mercilesse blood-suckers.

Whatsoever they whisper in the masters care is to him a *Credo*.

*Hinc illa lacrima.*

This is the gall which so many noble spirits being forced to drinke downe, doe so complaine against the cruelty of their Keepers, neither are their tyrannies of one nature, but their whips have severall knots, and knot a severall smarting.

A Broker takes forty in the hundred, and is called unconscionable divell for it, but these men thinke they may (without danger to their soules) wring fifty pounds *per annum* (out of prisoners afflictions and utterly undone states) for one nasty Chamber, hung with Cobweb-lawne for the greater grace and haunted with Lice and Rats for want of better company.

A Scrivener is reputed mercilesse in taking the forfeiture of a bond, but these men have with *Judas*, for thirty pence taken the forfeiture of a prisoners life, for the want of so much mony to discharge him, suffering him to dye in prison.

A rich Farmer is esteemed most inhumane, and no Christian, to take but the house or tenement over the head of a poore tenant then resident in it: but these make it nothing to take divers lodgings from a Common Jayle, which belonged for the ease and reliefe of divers poore prisoners, to convert them to the Masters side, and the benefit redounding to their owne purses, which is at the least 100 pound *per annum*.

Again, are all thy Actions discharged, and is there any hope that thou shalt have any fortunes abroad,  
or.

or that thou hast good friends to maintaine thee in Prison? be sure then that upon thy going out thou shalt be put backe, (when all fees are paid) though thy very foote stand upon the threshold, if knaves and Varlets, Clarkes and Catch-poles, can by trotting up and downe to any man to whom thou owest money, find any spring to catch thee in like a Wood-cocke.

And albeit thou art as free from any debts, as when thou wert borne, yet rather than faile, Actions shall be entred upon thee in a name thou knowest not, never hadst to deale with, or never heardest of: Great pittie that the reverend Judges of our Land have not eyes to look through the very heart of such villanies, or are not certified of the miserable dealing, and cruell extortion continually offered to Prisoners, to ease them, as they are both able and have ready hands to punish them.

Shall I adde this one thing more, which I doe with a compatible commiseration of those, who I know lye groaning under it: Is thy Creditors heart softened so gently, that hee hath compounded with thee for all the money thou owest him, yet comming to take leave of thy Keeper, thou art thrust backe into a worse prison than before; a booke of charges lies open before thee, and neither Vinteners nor Tailors bills are so terrible as the *Items* of the house, nor perhaps so unconscionable, besides all unreasonableness to give three pence in the pound for Execution money, and three halfe pence for Action, which many times arise to as much as twelve monthes expenses.

Offer good mens bonds, offer lands, offer plate, offer any paune whatsoever.

*Ibis, redibis nunquam, in Bello peribis.*

Backe thou must goe, to the place from whence thou art so desirous to come, and in that conflict betweene thy owne wants, and thy Keepers cruelty, perish, unlessse thou payest the uttermost penny: neither the language of intreaties, the promises of friends, the respect of any of the excellent parts in thee, whatsoever they be, nor any other motive (but money) can prevaile in the wonderfull miracle of thy liberty.

*Pecunia omnia  
potest.*

*Of mercilesse Taylors.*

Enough is spoken of the Essay going before, yet too much being too little, with often inculcation, into eares so deafe from being penetrated.

A voyce lowd as thunder, had need to roare and to awaken them. One Venny more, and if that hit, so, if not, (but if their hearts are not to be pierced) I will lay downe the Bucklers, and suffer them to take them up, yet fall backe, fall edge, thus traverse we our ground.

I love to see a mother hugge her infant, or a Father stroake his sonne on the head, these are bonds in nature, so strangely and strongly sealed, that to infringe them violates the very lawes of heaven: but when I see man exercise wilful tyranny upon man, it is as if the stars should in envy burne one another,

to

to extinguish one anothers light, and so confound that Spheare in malicious darknesse.

Barbarous cruelty is a Belluine quality: Tygers, Panthers, Beares, and Bandogs, have it by naturall inclination; it is no shame for them, it is in them a basenesse if they degenerate to mildnesse, and lose their courages: they have mouthes, jawes, teeth, pawes, and limbes proportionable to their savage disposition.

But man is borne weake, gentle, unapt to doe hurt, unable to offer violence, and to fall from that goodness, is to fall with the Angels; how much then doe they derogate from their noble creation, who turne the sharpnesse of their nayles, which God armes them with for their own beauty and defence, to draw blood upon the bosomes of Christians, made like themselves? Such are mercilesse inexorable Jaylors, (I exempt those tender-hearted ones, which I never found other) but most certaine such may bee found within a small compasse, who use and exercise all cruelty.

Cruelty becomes them worst of all men: a prisoner is a poore weather-beaten bird, who having lost the shoare, is driven by tempest to hang upon the sailes and tacklings of a prison: the Jaylor is the Saylor, and if he beate the bird off to sinke her in the seas, when by climbing up to the maine top, or perhaps by lifting up his hand, he may take it and lend it heate from his warme bosome; it is an argument, that his heart is made of the same rocks, that lye in wait to destroy ships in the Ocean.

Pitty is a god like property, but hardnesse of heart, selfe-wild tyranny, currish dealing, and imperious domineering over men dejected, argue base, ignoble, cowardly, and diuinish dispositions.

It is a Maxime in the schoole of valour, that no Coward can be an honest man: what then are flint-breasted Jaylor, who dare not strike but when they see men lie fettered at their feete: so dead Lions may be bitten and torne in peeces with Curres, which before durst not quetch for terrour of their pawes; so that he who descends to that poverty of minde, as to sat himselfe by other mens miserie, can no longer write man, *Myfanthropos*, Man-hater, or rather *An-thropophagus*, Man-eater.

It remorselesse keepers of Prisons, (for drawing now mine arrow) beare witnesse you who give ayme, that I shoote at none, that if Marble-hearted Jaylor were so haplesse happy as to be mistaken, and be made Kings, they would in stead of Iron to their Grates, have barres made of mens ribs, Death should stand at doore for Porter, and the Diuell every night come gingling of keyes, and rapping at doores to lock men up.

There be some Jaylor which deales with a prisoner, as a Cat with a Mouse, while shee is quick and strong seemes to play with her, and to give her some liberty, but being faint and weary, presently deuoures her. So the Jaylor, while the Prisoner hath any strength of monies, friends, cloathes, or good pawns, seemes to faviour and yeeld him some freedome, but these failing, the worst usage is then thought too good for him.

The



133

The Broker useth to receive pawns, but when he hath the feathers he lets the bird flye at liberty ; but the Jaylor when he hath beene plum'd with the prisoners pawns, detaines him for his last morsell.

The difference betwixt his enforced tenants and himselfe, that they are Prisoners within doores, and he without doores ; they desiring to be at liberty, he willingly loving this base servitude ; he is in Iron as well as they, and long may be so ; and to say the truth, he is the longer and the worse prisoner.

Hee feedes very strangely, for some say hee eates cloakes, hats, shirts, beds, and bed-steds, brasse, or pewter, or Gold Rings, Plate, and the like ; but I say hee is in his dyet more greedy than Cannibals, for they eate but some parts of a man, but this devoures the whole body.

The tenne-peny, and nine-peny Ordinaries should never bee in the Fleet, Gate-house, or the two infernal Compters, for Hunger would lay the Cloch, and Famine should play the leane fac'd Serving-man to take away the Trenchers.

*Neroes* cruelty, in respect of these, would be counted the peaceable reigne of *Augustus Caesar*, the persecutions of the Romane Emperours upon the Primitive Christians, should be painted Tragedies to real Massacres, compared to the inhumane blood-thirsty exercises which these Tyrants would put prisoners to, if they durst doe, what they have minde to doe.

*Obiect.* It may happily be thought that I am too

too bitter, and write untruths out of a malicious penne.

*Reas.* Let the world be judge: for when I see or heare that many noble, brave, and generous spirits, borne to great fortunes, well descended, of courages not to be baffled, but by the arme of base fortune, and the irresistable violence of Lawes fighting against them for debts: when I say, I see or heare that such Gentlemen, upon one after noones going abroad, might free themselves from bondage, and offer to goe pinneond, peradventure with leashes of Keepers, and giving besides proffered security of worthy friends, oaths, faiths, honours, and reputations of Gentlemen to come backe safe, when an inflexible Jaylor can with a word let them goe, yet spitefully stops them: Oh misery! what shall I speake of this, on whom complaine? Are there no such Keepers of Prisons in this Kingdome, then I doe none wrong.

But I will give you the picture of one farre worse, neither will I thereby infer all are faulty by one mans fault, God forbid: but thus I bestow him upon you.

There was living within lesse than seaven yeares past, in one of the petty prisons of this land, or not farre from it, a Jaylor, who having some poore men under his custody, lying for debts, and wanting all reliefe of friends, dwelling (as charity does still) many miles out of the way, was so unmercifull to them, that they having but little money, were glad to buy of him the livers of bullocks, which he begged

begged of Butchers for a dogge that he kept, and to pay a halfe penny for a quart of water. But what became of this Monster? he went one evening in perfect health to bed, at midnight started up roaring and raving, and crying out, the chamber was all on fire, and the Divell at his bed side catching at him, and so dyed in desperation. His wife after his death, keeping the same Jayle, fell suddainly extream poore, and his children doe at this houre goe a begging, for *qualis vita, finis ita*. Never was it heard that any hard hearted Jaylor did dye rich, or if he did, yet curses followed him to his grave, infamy sate over upon it, his end was wretched, his wealth melted to nothing, his family hath not prospered, his wife and posterity have beene beggers, and he that exhausteth a heape of riches out of the blood of prisoners, hath Gods mercy drawne away from him: I write this not to defame the good, but to reclaime the bad.

*De male questis non gaudet tertius haerens.*

*Of the miserable life in Prison.*

**T**O be a slave to a Turke is not so much, because he is a Turke, a monster whose teeth are sharpened of purpose, ( by divine sufferance ) to bite and draw blood: a Bulspize is as proper to his hand, as a Turbant to his head.

Cruelty is a genuine quality, but for a Christian to be slave to a Christian, as a prisoner is to an insul-fulting Jaylor, is as repugnant to nature, as for an elder brother to eate scraps from a younger brothers trencher.

The bondage is doubled in the basenesse of those petty insolent rake-hells, under whom the prisoner with a patience perforce suffers. For he is a slave in the eye of all freedome, fettered in the lap of his mother (his Countrey) and what misery can bee greater than to see shore, and yet be cast away.

To a free borne generous spirit, no Jewels are halfe so precious as his native liberty, gold to that as durt, and albeit with a masculine courage he endures the braves of peasants, when his body is confined, yet the nobility of his minde indures such wounds, as a woman in labour doth her throwes, the stroakes of death are easie to her passions.

Some cannot beleve, that so base a creature as a Bandog dare set upon a Lyon, but fresh experience teaches us the contrary, for that majesticall Beast was not onely barked at, but bitten in his own Lodging (the Tower) not many yeares past : So when thou art hurried through the streetes, in thy thundering Caroch, all eyes upon thee, Footmen running by thee, thy body glistering in Gold, thy mind swelling with pride, thy bagges full, thy attendants many, all men standing bare before thee at thy bed and boord, how wouldst thou take in scorn, if a wizzard (by the Almanacke of thy riots, poynting to an ill fac'd Catchpole, Bayliffe, or Jaylor, as he passeth by that pompe) should prognosticate and say, one of yonder Mastiffes will one day reare thee, when thou shalt not dare to spurne him, wouldst thou beleve this? Wouldst thou thinke so poore a snake durst ever sting thee?

But

137  
But when for heavy debts thou shalt be tossed  
from penne to penne ; ( of pleaders ) into a prison,  
when having hardly wintered within that Gar-  
rison of woe, thy face shall not bee thine, but  
the picture of care and discontentment, when  
though thou slumbrest, thy griefe shall still lye a-  
wake, when thy Angels shall have their wings clipt,  
and thy sikkes be turned into course freefe, then that  
Dogge whom thou scornedst to have kept thy gate,  
shall in thy very chamber snarle at thee ; thy bread  
by his kneading shall be full of gravell, and thou  
must eate it; thy drinke by his bitternesse turned into  
gall, yet thou must drinke it ; thou shalt be driven  
to thy bed with as much loathing, as a wretch that  
is to lye on a hurdle, and not suffered to rise until his  
Iron hand plucke thee up. So pent up wilt thou bee  
from ayre, that it shall almost make thee forget  
there is a Sunne in heaven : where is the edge of  
thy courage now ? how poorely is all thy former  
bravery attired ? dares this Butchers Curre now  
fasten upon the Lyon ? yes he shall : And there-  
fore

*Thus know him : If thou like not his harsh note,  
He grumbles, barks, and ee'ne to bite thy throat.  
His heart (if he durst do't) because he has power,  
As Lyons are lock't up within the Tower :  
So here great spirits are forc't to abide the braves,  
Base checks, and surly lookes of groomes and knaves.  
Prisoners to Taylors use that wretched trade  
Of common fidlers ; each one dare upbraid,*

42 *Essayes and Characters of a Locker up.*

*And call them base, what ever grieve or wrongs  
Lye at their hearts, they must chant merry songs,  
Like birds in Cages, and are glad to sing  
Sweet tunes to those, who them to thraldome bring.  
Who goe at freedome, at these hels may ghesse,  
None know them right, but they whose soules they presse.*

*A Locker up at Nights.*

**I**S an *Ignis fatuus*, ( or fire-Drake ) that glides from  
Roome to Roome, and frights every prisoner up-  
on whom he sheds his light ; if he prayes well, he  
cannot but bee a good Christian, for he is sure to  
watch,

\* Two and  
twenty shil-  
lings.

He might be a souldier by his walking the round,  
but that the poore rascall! seldome or never goes  
with a \* piece about him, his cloathes and hee are  
of one threed-bare waring, and very hardly get a  
nap.

Sometimes his cares are boxt for the glibnesse of  
his tongue, and though every night nothing be given  
him, yet he is sure to catch cold.

The Varlet is a ranke begger, yet many coxcombs  
thinke hee hath much in his keeping, because he is  
still locking up: the Bel-man of the City and he have  
almost offices alike, yet herein they differ, that the  
Bel-man hath his dog following him, but this night-  
walker growes into the habite of a dog by his cur-  
rishnesse.

*A noble*

*A noble understanding Prisoner.*

**I**S a Booke so truely printed, that fortune (with all her mistakings) cannot finde in him any Errata. He comes to prison as a great shippe in a storme to shore, shewing more noble Emblemes of constant suffering, than the seas could sticke upon it of their tyranny.

He beholds Jaylors, as a valiant souldier looks upon his wounds, which (how dangerous soever) yet he smiles upon his Chyrurgion, and will endure dressing with an undaunted countenance, because he knowes it is to fetch him off from danger.

No *Jacobs* staffe can take the height of a starre so truely, as his resolution can both of his owne misery, and his keepers cruelty: which albeit they move in one Spheare, yet their motions are contrary; for the one turnes still to his owne goodnesse, and the other to his Masters guilt and confusion.

He is the Oyle which swimmes on the top of affliction with courage, and cleerenesse, that part which is downwards, shines as brightly as that above, and no turbulence can make it sinke to the bottome. Of all Geometricall figures, a circle is the most perfect, and the hardest proposition is to bring it into a square, for some small fraction must be still left out: so it fares with this mans dimensions, addition makes him imperfect, and to cast off any thing leaves him lame. *Ovids* Verse and he are one and the same, word nor syllable are too much, nor too little: In

briefe, he can (with Judgement) know when to beat a saucy Jaylor, and when to have him fawn and make a shillings-worth of legs.

---

*Observations of a Prison.*

1. **T**He deereſt meat in Priſon is a Tablers cheefe, and his firſt welcome.

2. The cheapeſt drinkes are Garniſhes, on pottle of that is worth ten which you ſhall pay for in any Taverne about London: but it is farre more pleaſant to drinke his part of ten in a Taverne.

3. He that comes freſh into priſon, if hee flye into the parlour for victuals, is called a Woodcocke, if not thither, but at randome, than a Snipe; howſoever you terme them, but are ſure to be caught, and to put all into one cage; the Wood-cocke onely is now and then a little finelier trimmed up with green boughes, and reaſon, for the inferiour petty Jaylors hold him to be the better meate, and therefore never leave feeding upon him, untill they have pickt him to the very bones.

4. In priſons, Gentlemen, and burſten Citizens meet as upon the Exchange, but the newes of both are not alike; for the gentleman ſhall be ſure to heare of nothing but of wracks, but the poloticke cheating Bankrupt heares ſtill that his ſhip comes home with rich lading; this is his ſafeſt landing place.

5. Fat mutton-chops out of the Kitchin, make leane



leane Commons in a prisoners chamber.

6. You shall see some in a chamber, who having scarce cloaths to cover them with, yet fingring good store of money ; the pottle pot shall never cease filling, untill the hogs-head of their silver be cleane emptied, albe they wash their dry mouths a fortnight after with small beere. Such fellowes are like some scurvy players, whose ambition is to play the greatest parts, yet performing them ill favouredly, are hift at for their labour.

7. Anasty stinging lodging in a Jayle, is sweeter land than any garden house about *Bun-hill*.

8. A Tobacco shop and a Bawdy house, are in the Skirts of the Suburbs counted Inmates, but in a prison the tenure is all one.

9. A prison is nothing else but a great Ale-house, for every chamber is nothing else but a continuall drinking roome.

10. *Adam* was driven out of *Eden* for eating of a poore apple, and a prisoner for want of sixe pence shall be kept out of the Garden: Every *Cerberus* must have his sop.

11. The Porters lodge is a Martins nest, a knave Porters favour is bought as men sell deale bords, ( by the foote ) so of him for a sixe penny bribe thou shalt have an inch of liberty, measured out by the Rule.

12. It is flowing water in a prison, when there is no roome in the Celler for a man to drinke a Cup of Beere in; ebbing water when *John Batty* sits nodding for want of company.

13. It

13. It is full sea when three men are forced to lye thrusting in one bed.

14. A snorting bed-fellow, is that great Organ pipe, whose base sound sets all the Quire a roaring.

15. The easiest commodities to be taken up in a Prison are smocks, but trust no man with a thirt, no though he be a Knight of *Malta*, *S. Iago*, *Santa Cruz*, or the *Sepulcher*, though he steale his band of tenne thousand *Dam-meas*.

16. Many fine Rings are to be had in a Prison, the mettall of them is right Touch, but most of the stones are counterfeit.

17. The Sun every yeare passeth through the 12. Signes in the Zodiack, and the same signes serve as twelve houses belonging to a prison.

1. The Signe is in *Aries*, when a Country Ram, and a City Goat meet ful But in a Prison upon going to Law one goares another.

2. In *Taurus*, when the poore debtor is tossed upon the horns of his adversaries malice, from the Countrey Jayle to London, first to the Kings Bench, and then to the Fleet.

3. In *Gemini*, when halfe the prison are drunke in couples, this is a hot Signe.

4. In *Cancer*, when a prisoner scorning to grease the groome Porter with oyle of silver, requests to come into the Lodge, or walke into the Rule, but is forced (with a *Canceris imitere*) to goe backward.

5. In *Leo*, when there is a mutiny in the house, breaking

breaking open locks, & battering down doors.

6. In *Virgo*, when a pretty wench comes to have her Action entred in a close chamber.

7. In *Libra*, when the shaving Jaylor, and sharing Creditor equally fleece the Prisoner, and turne him out like a new shorne sheepe.

8. In *Scorpio*, when beds are lousie.

9. In *Sagittarius*, when a Tabler eating too deep into score, is shot from full platters, and feeds on two-penny chops and pottage.

10. In *Capricornus*, when a prisoners wife taking hold on times fore-locke, gives her husband a Bugle hat-band.

11. In *Aquarius*, when a Prisoner at his first coming into prison, gives sixpence for an earthen pisse-pot.

12. In *Pisces*, when he paies eight pence in the Kitchen for dressing a groats worth of fish.

18. Sure they are no Aldermen that lye in prison, for if you see fourescore of them in one house, threescore and eightene of those have given up their Cloaks.

19. *Amsterdam* and a Jayle are peopled alike, Religion in both places goe antickly attired, for here whilst some are busie at Sermon, others are as busie at their halfe Cans; one man sits bare-headed to heare Service, and the very next to him with his hat on stitching of Bodies; one man with his Spectacles on, reading the first Lesson, another hard by him stitching on the upper soles of a paire of shooes.

20. Prisoners in the Kings Bench common Jayle,

H

are

*Their beds are  
called horses.*

are able to doe good service both by Sea and Land, for some have Cabins, but most of them keep horses.

21. The Kings Guard are counted the strongest Archers, but here are better suitors.

22. A Whore entring into prison is a Hony-pot, about the which all the Flies come buzzing, as Crows to a Carrion.

23. The Lease of every prison is forfeited, if every prisoner goe sober to bed.

24. Some are of opinion, that English prisons lock up none but Englishmen; but I say they are all Hungarians.

25. Execution of the law, is a satisfaction to the law, all men therefore in execution have paid their debts.

26. They that being at liberty were ever held to speake truth, are in a prison horrible liers.

27. Men study no game at Cards so much in prison as Maw.

28. To borrow money is called striking, but the blow can hardly or never be recovered.

29. Every prisoner is a Piece, and no marvaile if he breakes, being so greatly charged.

30. A Jaylor has a divelish stomach, for he eats men.

31. *Stow* your own country-man, & writer of Chronicles cannot be beleev'd by many, touching the remotion of Lands by Earth-quakes, and yet to confirme him, goe but to the Kings Bench, and it is a wonder if you find not *Hockley in the Hole*, about the house; which yee all know was planted farther off; fame is as windy as any of the 4 quarters which trumpetting his judgement in government abroad hath

commanded his assistance to this place; souldiers are something more exorbitant than prisoners, and since he knew how to menace them, doubt not but he will quickly learne to manage us. This is the greatelt unlikely-hood, yet here it is ratified. What else ye shall heare, both touching the place, the persons, and their hangers on, hang me if the tryall make you not say, report hath beene too sparing. I wish to every man faith to beleewe all this; but deliverance from tasting of the least part that others suffer.

*FINIS.*

